

agencies—570 by the city and county of Denver, 344 by the State of Colorado, 131 by Adams County and 45 by El Paso County—the program also assisted many smaller agencies as well, including those in Hinsdale County, Moffat County, Federal Heights, Glenwood Springs, and Durango.

Police officers from across our State have told me the program has been a great success, improving the safety and security of American law enforcement officers and better enabling them to do their job. And while President Bush's budgets have repeatedly neglected to request the full funding authorized for the program, Congress has stepped up and recognized its importance and appropriated the funds needed to keep it strong.

Bulletproof vests are expensive but essential. No officer should be without one and they should be basic equipment made available to officers when we ask them to perform dangerous jobs. If we can afford to pay for training and equipment for Iraqi police—and we indeed are paying for that—I think we can afford to help pay for bulletproof vests for the officers who protect Americans here at home.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge approval of this bill, to renew and extend the authorization for this very important program.

HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1343, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008. This bill fulfills America's promise to its citizens by protecting access to high quality health care.

Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008 will continue Congress's commitment to our Nation's 1,200 community health centers that provide high quality, affordable primary health care to more the 18 million Americans in over 7,000 communities nationwide. Numerous studies have shown that health centers are particularly effective because they remove barriers to care and deliver services in a manner adapted to the patients of individual communities. Health centers improve outcomes and mitigate health disparities, resulting in better health care for their patients and savings for the health care system. In fact, there is evidence that people who get most of their primary care from a health center have 41 percent lower overall health care costs than others, saving Federal taxpayers \$10 to \$17 billion in 2007 alone. The Community Health Centers program has been consistently rated as one of the most effective programs in the Department of Health and Human Services by the Office of Management and Budget.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1343 will ensure that the millions of Americans who rely on health care centers continue to have access to high quality and affordable health services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1343.

TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus and an original co-sponsor of this bill, I am pleased to see The Travel Promotion Act (H.R. 3232) pass the House of Representatives.

This legislation will re-establish the United States as a premier destination for foreign travelers. Since September 11, the United States has seen a decline of more than 46 million overseas travelers costing our economy \$140 billion. This bill will put us back on track.

H.R. 3232 creates a nonprofit corporation to promote the United States to international visitors—this is a public-private partnership with no cost to the American taxpayer. With the current level of the dollar, the United States is a travel bargain and that message needs to get out.

Nearly every developed nation in the world spends millions of dollars to attract visitors, an investment that pays big dividends. Overseas visitors stay longer and spend more. The United States is missing out on a large share of the global tourism market, and we will continue to lose out without this sensible investment.

Another benefit of this bill is the increased person-to-person contact that we will enjoy. At a time when our image abroad is tarnished, this is an opportunity to use our communities to serve as diplomats to the world. There are no better ambassadors than the American people.

I want to thank Congressman BILL DELAHUNT and Congressman ROY BLUNT and for their leadership on this bill.

Additionally, I would like to thank my co-chair on the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus, Congressman JON PORTER of Nevada, it has been my pleasure to work with him on his legislation and on many other travel-related issues. His tireless efforts for the travel community and the caucus are truly admirable.

CALLING CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my opposition to the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 3402.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3402, the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act. This bill—while well-intentioned—would only add to an increase in regulatory confusion because it sets up a system where lateral government organizations will not only be enforcing laws but also issuing their own interpretations of those laws. This is inefficient and it will breed confusion and conflict.

How can we reasonably expect multiple governmental organizations, in this instance the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, to agree on the meaning of a particular statute when members of those individual commissions can't seem to agree among themselves? The truth is we can't and that is why the FCC and FTC dual authority provision should be corrected.

Finally, I recognize that State attorneys general can play a role in enforcing a Federal statute. However, empowering multiple entities with this authority will only force American businesses to spend valuable resources fighting litigation rather than investing in infrastructure, jobs, and consumer services.

Madam Speaker for these reasons I ask that my colleagues oppose H.R. 3402.

EFFECTIVE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROSECUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4120, the Effective Child Pornography Prosecution Act. I am very pleased to be the lead Republican cosponsor, and I thank the gentlewoman from Kansas for all of her hard work on this legislation that will close an unacceptable loophole in the Federal criminal code.

Last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit overturned a lower court's decision in *U.S. v. Schaefer* and freed a defendant who had been convicted of receiving and possessing child pornography. The case was not overturned for lack of evidence, but rather because the prosecution failed to prove that images downloaded from the Internet moved across State lines in "interstate commerce."

The judges who decided this case pointed out that the use of the phrase "in commerce" instead of "affecting commerce" in the law signaled Congress' intent to limit Federal jurisdiction in the prosecution of child pornographers. As co-chair of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. We in Congress know the horrible consequences that result from the sexual exploitation of children used to create these images. We also take very seriously our duty to do everything in our power to protect children, punish predators and deter future acts of abuse.

That is why the bill we are considering today deserves our full support. It will close the loophole in current law by replacing the phrase "in commerce" with the phrase "affecting commerce" in the child pornography statute.

I also was pleased that the Senate chose to include additional provisions making it easier to prosecute those who willfully access child pornography on the Internet. These changes will give prosecutors the tools they need to ensure that predators who use the Internet to transmit or access child pornography end up behind bars, where they belong.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the gentlewoman from Kansas, my good friend, NANCY BOYDA, for introducing this legislation. I also would like to thank the National